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VOL. II NO. 124

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 26, 1947.

Price 20 Cents

The Hongkong Telegraph

For the Proprietor of
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
For and on behalf of
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
Printed and Published

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Disappears Today



BOOM!

—It's Going
CRASH!

—It's Gone

Thousands of eyes will be turned expectantly towards Mount Cameron this afternoon when, at 4.30, what is now left of the Japanese war memorial will come tumbling down under the influence of a 1,000 small-charges plastic explosion.

In order to ensure the utmost safety to life and property in the vicinity, the authorities will close Stubbs and Connaught roads between Wanchai and Magazine Gaps to traffic and pedestrians, between 4.15 and 5.15.

A corps of press photographers will attend the blowing-up operation, including representatives of Life and Fortune now in Hongkong.

So far, eight of the original 12 reinforced concrete legs of the memorial have been removed. Two remain in the centre and two at the rear. It is the last two which are now bearing most of the weight of the tower and it is here that the major portion of the explosive will be lodged.

When all preparations have been completed, the memorial will be blown up by an explosive electrically fired by the PWD engineer in charge, Mr. H. W. Forsyth.

SEALF CHIEF IN RANGOON

Rangoon, Feb. 25.
Lt-Gen Sir Neil Ritchie, GOC South-east Asia Forces, arrived here to-day from Singapore.

Abdul Razak, newly-appointed member for Educational Planning in the Executive Council, who is expected to arrive here to-night from Mandalay, will be sworn in at Government House to-morrow.—Reuters.

New Cunard Liner

Belfast, Feb. 25.
Britain's second new postwar liner for the North Atlantic trade, the 14,000-ton Cunard White Star steamship Parthia, was launched here to-day.

She is a combined cargo and passenger vessel.—Reuters.

EDITORIAL

The Sai On Findings

In sober, measured phrases, the Court of Inquiry has issued its findings on the Sai On disaster. Anybody who expected sensationalism will be disappointed. Nevertheless, important conclusions were reached and they will receive general approval. The Court deprecated the practice of passengers being carried on top of cargo, and urged closer observance of the regulations governing accommodation; criticised as reprehensible the custom of permitting the loading of vessels and the berthing of passengers to be carried out by the company's staff; recommended more efficient fire patrols, and the provision of well-defined and clear spaces for unberthed passengers separate from cargo carried on the same deck.

Denied the necessary evidence to prove through what agency the fire started and why it could not be confined, the Court, quite reasonably, admitted the possibility of incendiarism. Certainly it was a blaze of exceptional ferocity because, although the ship's fire fighting equipment was in good order, and despite the fire brigade being in action two minutes from receiving the alarm, it took two hours to get the flames under control. Whatever its origin, the Sai On fire renders imperative the adoption of the Court's recommendation for more efficient fire patrols aboard ships in harbour, not only efficient, but frequent. In dealing with the conditions under which passengers were accommodated and cargo stored, the Court appeared torn between being scandalised at a time-honoured malpractice and showing appreciation of the abnormal postwar conditions confronting a shipping company. But where human lives may be endangered there can be only one answer; owners and officers must see that regulations, designed as they are to serve as additional safety precautions, are fully carried out. With the present heavy demands on shipping space, this may involve the necessity of offloading either cargo or passengers, giving further point to the Court's insistence that it should be the duty of the Master and his officers to supervise berthing and loading. They only are qualified to decide whether the proper methods have been employed.

FUTURE DEFENCE OF INDIA STATEMENT

Britain Will Surrender Her Responsibility, Says Attlee

London, Feb. 25.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, told the House of Commons to-day the defence of India would be given up by the British along with other authority when Britain gets out. However, Mr. Attlee's statement left the door open for India to seek assurances of British aid in case of need.

Mr. Attlee said the transference of full power to India on the June 1948 deadline also meant the transference of defence duties to India herself.

"If India decides to remain within the British Commonwealth," he said, "the position would be similar to that existing between His Majesty's Government and the British Commonwealth."

"If India decides to leave the British Commonwealth, then her future security would be a matter of great interest to His Majesty's Government, who would be ready to enter into discussions with India, subject to the obligations of both parties under the United Nations Charter."

The Prime Minister's statement has been the first so far on this point, which was expected to figure strongly in the future working of India toward independence. Mr. Attlee replied to a question from a Conservative member who was voicing feeling in Opposition ranks that an indefensible India might upset the balance of power in Asia and that unless India's frontiers were guaranteed there might be endless troubles.

Mr. Attlee's statement made no reference to the use of military in internal politics.

LORD'S DEBATE

Lord Templewood, opening the Lords' debate on India to-day, described the Government's setting of the date for withdrawal as "gamblers' throw which may come off or do irreparable damage to the government of India."

Lord Templewood moved the following censure: "That the decision of the Government to hand over India to the Indian Government in June 1948, under conditions which appear to be in conflict with previous declarations and without any provisions for the protection of minorities or discharge of other obligations, is likely to imperil India's peace and prosperity." He described the new approach to the Indian problem as "not appeasement, but unconditional surrender."

He accused the Government of having "broken up unity on the Indian front" and added, "If India is to be divided into parts, this is the worst possible way to do it." "Unity in India, whether we like it or not, depends on the existence of British influence in India."

WANTS PLAN REVEALED

"It seems inconceivable that between now and June 1948 any workable constitution can be created either for a centre or for provinces." "We ought to know at once what is the plan in Government's mind and to what kind of authorities do they intend to transfer power if they fail to obtain a constitution under a single constituent assembly," declared Lord Templewood.

Lord Templewood said the Government's policy would "make well nigh inevitable fragmentation of India."

Viscount Samuel, replying for the Government, recalled that shortly after the signing of the Atlantic Charter, Mr. Winston Churchill said it did not apply to India.

"Now Mr. Churchill leads the conservative Party and is leading back

to reversion to those tendencies which existed throughout its history," he stated.

He then gave instances of three failures of the Conservatives, firstly, loss of the American colonies; secondly, creation of Elire; thirdly, opposition to South African independence. He then added: "Now they would add a fourth by breaking unworkable India."

The Secretary of State for India, Lord Pethick Lawrence, pointed out that Government's action had already brought support from India and he said the transfer of power in India had been steadily going on during the last 20 years, but "it cannot be indefinitely continued, leaving nominal responsibility for events in our hands while lacking the means of exercising our responsibilities."

"British rule could not be maintained after 1948," stated Lord Pethick Lawrence.—United Press.

Rose Room And Roof Garden To Be Converted Into Bedrooms

People will dance in the Peninsula Hotel Rose Room for the last time next Saturday night. The Rose Room and Roof Garden, both scenes in days goneby of dinner dances, Christmas and New Year revelries, and social functions such as the St. Andrew's, St. George's and St. Patrick's societies annual balls, are to be converted into rooms.

This decision by the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., has been made because of the acute accommodation problem.

Plans have been drawn up for 42 bedrooms to be built in the combined Rose Room and Roof Garden. They are primarily intended for use by future passengers of an air line service operating in Hongkong.

Work will be completed by the end of April.

Each room will be fitted with a private bath and a small locker room. Each will be fully furnished and designed to accommodate two persons.

Mr. F. C. Barry, managing director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., told the "Telegraph" to-day that the Rose Room will be used for dancing for the last time next Saturday.

Arrangements have been made for future use of the first floor dining hall as a ballroom twice a week.

There is also a projected scheme for extending the first floor for conversion into a ballroom, but said Mr. Barry, this idea has not advanced to a stage permitting of any detailed comment at the moment.

From the early days of the re-occupation until recent months, the Rose Room was used as a Services' club, where officers took their friends and partners for dinner dances. For some weeks the Roof Garden was used to house displaced Jews who had to stay over in Hongkong on their way to Australia.

The effect of the proposed conversion will be to make the whole of the sixth floor of the Peninsula Hotel residential.

It is expected that the cocktail bar situated off the hallway between the Rose Room and Roof Garden will be retained as a private lounge.

Greek Guerillas Active

Athens, Feb. 25.
Six hundred guerillas attacked the village of Soumerna, eight kilometers south of the Yugoslav frontier near Lake Doiran, before dawn yesterday but were repulsed by Greek regular troops, press reports from Salonika said to-day.

A number of houses were reported to have been burnt down in the battle, which lasted until daybreak.—Reuters.



MR BEVIN

CHIANG GOES TO TSINAN

Meets Shantung Authorities

Nanking, Feb. 25.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek returned here this afternoon from an unannounced brief visit to the capital of Shantung province and headquarters for directing warfare against the Communists in the central part of the province, informed sources revealed to-day.

According to these sources, the Generalissimo departed from Nanking yesterday afternoon aboard his private plane Mel Ling. He was met in Tsinan by General Wang Yao-wu, Governor of Shantung, and other top officials and military authorities.

Official quarters in Nanking, including the Ministry of Information, declined to confirm or deny the Generalissimo's trip. In the past, these quarters attempted to keep secret the Generalissimo's movements from the capital.

The trip to the battle area is the third which Marshal Chiang Kai-shek has made within a month. His first was to Hsuehchow in north Kiangsu and the second to Chengchow in Honan Province, at the junction of the Lunghai and Peiping-Hankow Railways.—Reuters.

SHANTUNG CAMPAIGN

Nanking, Feb. 25.
In their campaign to re-open the Tsinan-Peking railway, Government troops captured Teng-hsien on the railway line 20 miles north of Lincheng in south Shantung, according to the latest press reports.

The Communists holding Tsingtao, 25 miles north of Teng-hsien, are now squeezed in between two Government forces. The Nationalists are also pushing north from Tzeng towards Tsingtao. Repairs on the railway between Lincheng and Tsingtao are reported to have already begun.

In central Shantung, the Communist offensive is increasing in intensity. Heavy fighting continues around Laiwu and Poshan. The Communist offensive in Manchuria is also said to be spreading.

Semi-official dispatches admit that 20,000 Red troops smashed into the suburbs of Tzingswei, where bitter street fighting is now raging. At the same time two Communist columns are said to be attacking Chongtsechun, 12 miles south of Tzingswei.

The same reports added that more and more Communist troops are crossing the Sungari River southward to participate in the offensive.—Reuters.

German Peace Treaty

NO AGREEMENT

London, Feb. 25.
Deputies of the Four-Power Foreign Ministers Council ended their six weeks conference to-day without an agreement on how the victorious allies are to write a peace for Germany and without completing a draft treaty for Austria.

The deputies considering the German question were unable to overcome differences on the question of how large a share the 18 smaller allies shall have in making the peace for Germany and the Foreign Ministers who met in Moscow March 10 will have no agreed recommendation on the basic procedure before them.

Instead the Foreign Ministers will receive diverse recommendations from the four deputies and a mass of suggestions from the smaller allies.

The Council therefore will have to begin with deciding how to work out the German treaty rather than with settling down to the subject of peace. In the final session the deputies bogged down even on how they were to report their disagreement.

Soviet Objection

Russian deputy Fedor Gusev objected to a report, which would have summarised the points on which Russia, Britain, France and the United States were agreed.

Some would have presented the disagreed points in the form of marginal notes or annexes.

Gusev said he would not associate himself with such a report.

Finally it was agreed the deputies would simply report in this language "the deputies to work out the procedure for consultation with the allied governments."

Throughout this conference Russia has objected to the full participation in the German peace-making demanded by the smaller powers.

The other three big powers have reached a measure of agreement on the participation of at least the right to listen to all proceedings.

The deputies considering a treaty for an independent Austria succeeded only in organising a rough draft in which there are many blank spaces and unagreed sections.—Associated Press.

BEVIN'S DRAMATIC ACCUSATION

Says Pres. Truman Wrecked Palestine Negotiations

London, Feb. 25.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, to-day charged in the House of Commons that President Truman had wrecked British negotiations for solution of the Palestine problem by demanding the immediate entrance of 100,000 Jews just as negotiations were on the threshold of success.

Mr. Bevin revealed that the British had pleaded with the then Secretary of State, Mr. James Byrnes, to dissuade Mr. Truman from issuing the demand. Nevertheless, the Truman statement was made.

The Foreign Secretary's accusation was the strongest made by a British Cabinet Minister against the President of the United States within recent memory, certainly since pre-war years.

Mr. Bevin apparently decided to name the President and place the blame on him personally only after he had begun speaking in the Commons, or possibly shortly before.

By the same token, Mr. Bevin presumably did not send advance notice to the United States—as did Mr. Truman to Britain with his controversial statement—that he intended to attack on the floor of the Commons the President's intervention.

A Foreign Office spokesman said, however, that there had been several friendly exchanges in the past week or so between Mr. Bevin and the Secretary of State, Gen. George Marshall, on Britain's plans to refer the Palestine question to the United Nations.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, conceded to-day that Britain's mandate in Palestine provided for "virtual invasion" by thousands of Jews, but warned that it also specified that the rights and positions of the Arabs must be protected.

The question therefore arose whether this could be accomplished without conflict. Mr. Bevin told the Commons, "Events in the last 25 years have proved that it cannot."

VEXED AND COMPLEX

Mr. Bevin opened for the Government in the debate on the Government's decision to refer the Palestine problems to the United Nations for judgment of the Arab and Jewish claimants.

"The problem of Palestine is a very vexed and complex one," Mr. Bevin said. "There is no denying the fact that the mandate contains contradictory promises."

In the first place it promised the Jews a national home and in the second place declared that the rights and position of the Arabs must be protected.

"Therefore it provides for what is virtual invasion of the country by thousands of Jews and at the same time says that it must not disturb the people in possession."

The Foreign Secretary said the issue no longer was whether there should be a national home for Jews in Palestine. Rather, he said, the United Nations must decide between making Palestine a Jewish state, an Arab state with safeguards for the Jews and a Palestinian state in which the interests of both the Jews and the Arabs were equally balanced and protected as possible.

Continued on Page 4)

Britain's Bread Rationing

Winnipeg, Feb. 26.

Mr. John Strachey, Britain's Minister of Food, said yesterday that he hoped bread rationing in Britain might end this summer, but added it would depend on sufficient wheat coming from Canada and other countries.

Mr. Strachey told a press conference that Britain would be more than satisfied if Canada could keep wheat exports up to the January level.

Observing that the January level could not be reached this year, the Minister said he believed that shipments would be increased with the opening of navigation in the spring.—Associated Press.

LONDON'S WEATHER RECORDS

London, Feb. 25.

Air Ministry weather experts checked statistical tables to-day in bright sunlight pouring through the windows and quickly corrected the many unofficial reports about recent Arctic weather.

They admitted that Britain had had a rough time, that London's sunless day records had been shattered and that the continued cold spell in London this month was the most frigid February weather since records started in 1841. Then they started qualifying.

They said Britain had seen far colder weather than last night's minus three degrees Fahrenheit a Moreton-on-the-Marsh which, however, was the coldest February temperature since 1817.

The lowest point during the present spell was minus six degrees at Emswold, Kent, on January 29, but it did not compare with minus seven degrees set at Bruem, Scotland, in February 1890.

The Ministry does not keep snow-fall records but a spokesman expressed certainty that this year's fall was not as heavy as in January, 1931.

LONDON RECORDS

They listed the following London records: The longest continuous sub-freezing weather in February—8 p.m. on February 14 to 1 p.m. Feb. 24.

The sunless record—21 continuous sunless days from Feb. 2 through Feb. 22. It is the longest since records started in 1800. The previous record was 17 sunless days in December, 1890.

The night minimum temperature was on Feb. 23 with 14 degrees—the lowest ever recorded at the Kew Observatory for February.

No other records were available. The Air Ministry said the cold after dark temperatures would continue—it was 23 in London last night and nine below zero for the second night at Billesdell, Leicestershire—and announced that four weather systems were jockeying for a position off England.

DEPRESSIONS

1. An Atlantic depression might reach here.

2. Another depression over the Iberian Peninsula might bring relief if it switched its course and moved north.

3. A depression drifted near Oslo and might come south.

4. The anti-cyclone which swung over England during the weekend bringing fog and extra cold nights was over Europe to a point just south of Warsaw.

Berlin was down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit and at Frankfurt it was 21.—United Press.

The High Cost Of UNRRA

Washington, Feb. 25.

Mr. William Clayton, United States Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, to-day estimated to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives that the minimum cost of UNRRA relief requirements for the calendar year of 1947 was about \$610,000,000.

Of this, he said, President Truman regarded that \$350,000,000 or 57 per cent as "a fair share" for the United States to assume.

Mr. Clayton said that the British and other governments in a position to help were considering what they could contribute. Mr. Clayton listed Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and tentatively China as countries which would continue to need outright grants of aid after UNRRA shipments ceased this spring.

Aid which for Austria might be required even in 1948 was intended only for countries unable to finance imports from their own resources,

including current earnings of foreign exchange and existing and anticipated foreign loans and credits.

Outlining the proposed method of dispensing the \$350,000,000 which President Truman had asked Congress to authorize, Mr. Clayton said that agreements would be negotiated with each recipient government which would include guarantees against distribution of supplies on a political, racial or discriminatory basis.

The agreements would stipulate the right of observation "by our representatives in the country and freedom to report without censorship by press and radio," he said.

To facilitate the carrying out of the program, the United States State Department has planned to attach to the United States Embassy in each recipient country a small special staff.

The estimates of requirements were tentative, Mr. Clayton said.

"Emergencies may arise requiring for some countries whereas in others recovery may occur at a more rapid rate than we now anticipate," he added.

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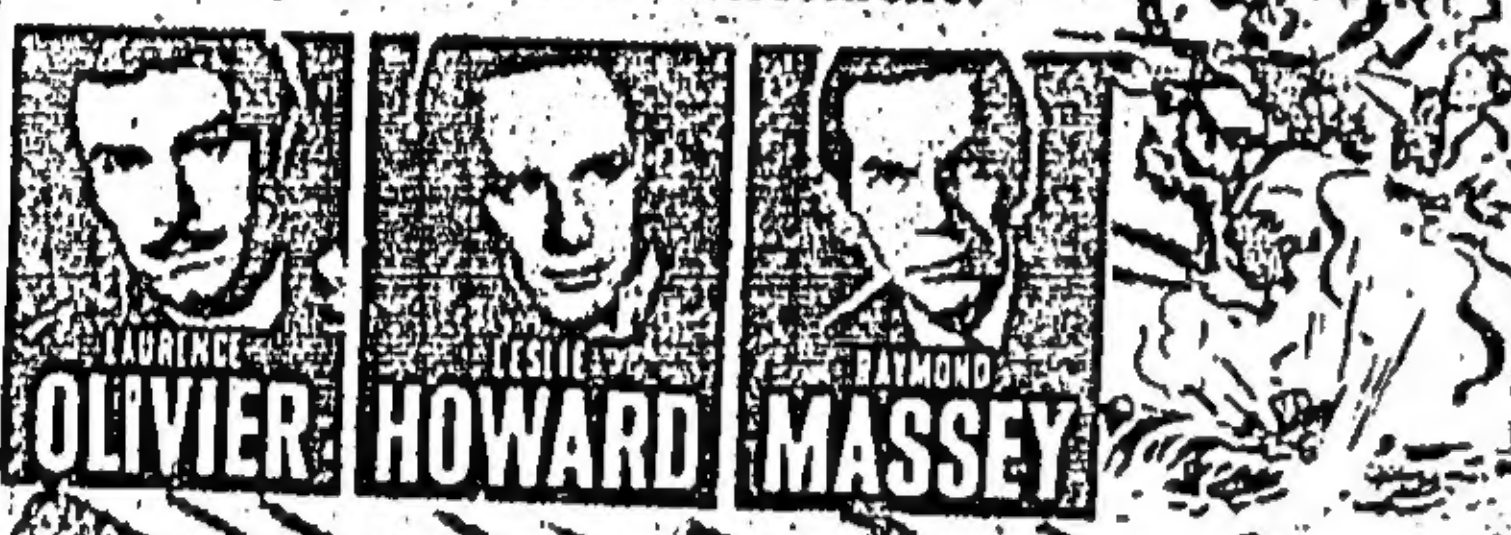
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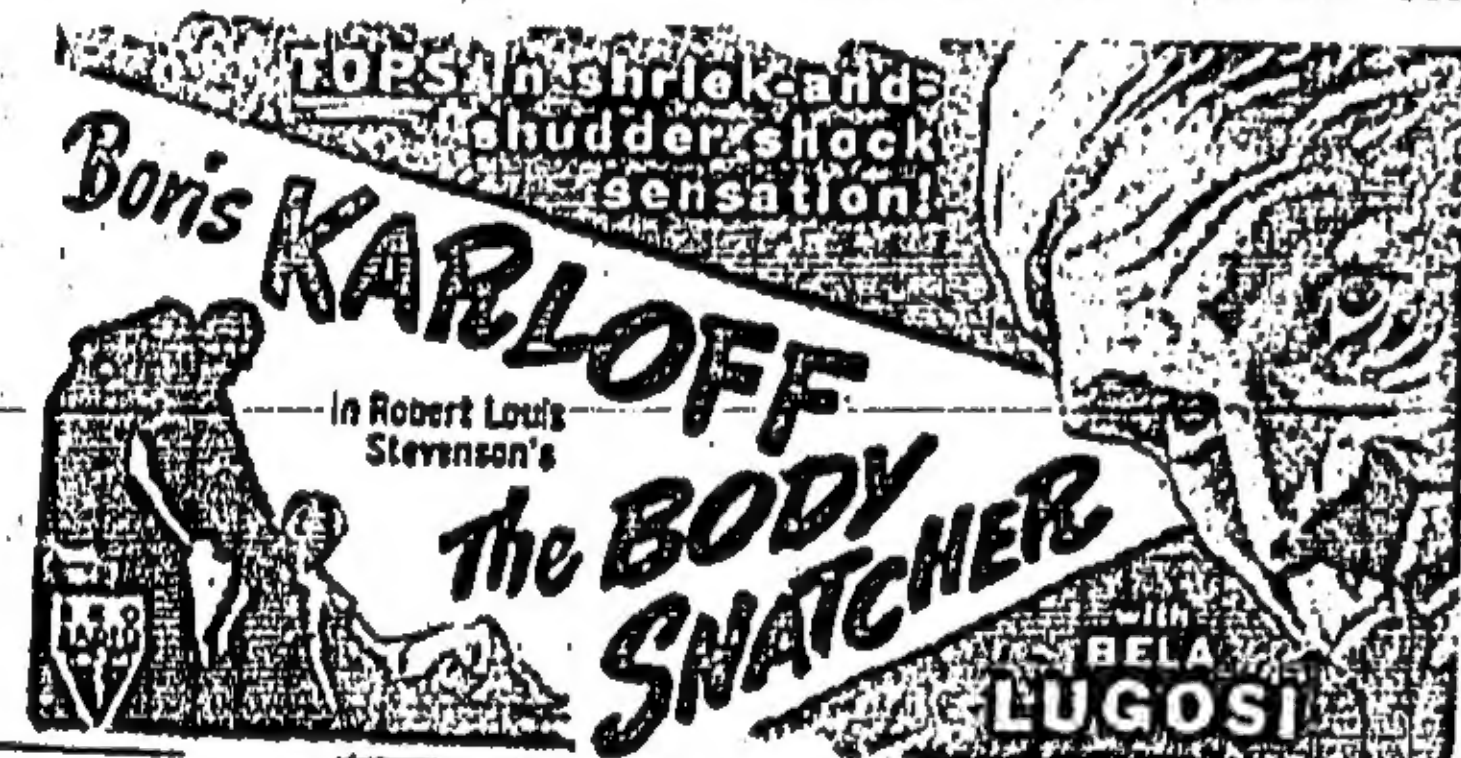
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Sitting on the Fence:

OLD MOORE GUBBINS
LOOKS INTO 1947

JANUARY will be cold, wet, foggy, snowy, muddy and miserable. Almost every day there will be a warning about the shortage of fuel. Almost every other day somebody will estimate the world stocks of bread grains and give different figures every time.

FEBRUARY will be cold, wet, foggy, snowy, muddy and miserable. Almost every day there will be reports of egg ships coming from Canada, but very few people in Britain will get any eggs.

Warnings about fuel shortages will become so monotonous that nobody will take any notice.

There will be the usual frightening reports of new atomic weapons designed to blow everybody up in five seconds and the usual reports that Uncle Joe Stalin has dropped off the hooks. He will turn out to be fitter than ever.

The only consolation about February will be that it is the shortest month in the year. Otherwise it will be a month of hell for everybody but Uncle Joe Stalin.

MARCH will be cold, wet, foggy, snowy, and hardly bearable. Gales will stop all fishing, so there will be no fish. There will be no eggs because more and more egg-ships will be sailing from Canada.

Huddled up in his tattered robe, which he can't replace because all new robes are now for export only, and staring fixedly into his coal-less fireplace, NATHANIEL GUBBINS was able to see the whole dismal future, and wrote down for you last Wednesday his dark prophecies for the next five years. While in the same mood, he also made the accompanying detailed predictions for this year.

By now there will be hardly any coal in Britain at all. It will be a terrible month for everybody except Uncle Joe Stalin, who will be fitter than usual.

APRIL will be blowy, snowy, slushy, mushy and thoroughly damnable. There will be a series of clever articles in Pravda on this subject. They will be called "Can the British Empire survive?" and will be signed by an ass called Peter Koldroff.

About this time there will be an influenza epidemic. Almost everybody in the world will get it but Uncle Joe Stalin, who will run ten times round the Kremlin every morning to keep fit. An awful month for everybody but Joe.

MAY will be colder than Christmas with sharp frosts and a heavy snowstorm at Whitsun. The papers will be full of stories about ruined fruit crops and fruit farmers going bankrupt. They will be the same fruit farmers who go bankrupt every year.

The derby, if it is run in May, will be run in a blizzard. It will be run in June. Somebody will write to the papers suggesting that it should be run at Christmas, when the weather is better.

There will be another report that Uncle Joe Stalin is dead. The next day there will be a picture of him boxing with Molotov. Another awful month for all but Joe.

JUNE will be slushy, mushy, muddy and bluggy. About this time everybody will have the wind up about the harvest. The usual dreary nonsense about world bread grain stocks will be published, and Sir Waldron Smithers will say again that bread rationing wasn't necessary.

Uncle Joe Stalin will announce that he is taking part in the next Olympic Games.

JULY will be wet and chilly. Farmers will still be in the dog and duck. So will the food reporters. They will tell each other till closing time that it will be the worst harvest in history.

WILLIAM HICKEY

Oxford Don Quixote

NEWEST champion of Westminster women is Oxford's Professor GILBERT MURRAY who is even older than Don Quixote, but just as delightful and equally courageous.

Which is as well, if you think about it, because those formidable and independent dames are not likely to relish the role of damsels in distress.

The professor finds it strange that there is no woman in the British delegation to the United Nations Assembly, thinks something should be done for them, for he is sure that "it cannot be due to any lack of competent women among the Government supporters."

Now I wonder if he is right about that?

MOST discreetly and in carefully academic terms I asked the professor who was his girl friend.

A chuckle was the answer, and with the ripe wisdom of 80 years Professor Murray thought "he had better not go any further," then added, but still giving no names, that he "could recommend a dozen."

CITY rumour is that Sir EDMUND CRANE will get £3,000,000 cash on payment for the bicycle business which he started with a capital of £25. He still owns it and is sole shareholder.

If true, City elders agree that this will be Britain's biggest cash deal, but is still a long way behind the £9,750,000 cash paid for Pheasant's Grocery Store in Beaumont, Texas.

I used to know JOHN HENRY PHELAN, saw him last in London just before the war. He went to Beaumont as a lad when the oil rush started over 40 years ago, had hardly enough money to pay for his lodgings.

He got a job as a grocer's boy and, as all would-be millionaires are advised to do, worked hard and saved.

In ten years he was able to start his own grocery store.

Then, like everybody else in Beaumont, he got interested in oil. Three other young hopefuls came into the grocery trade but bored for oil instead.

The four partners kept the business between them, never formed a company, never sold a share.

When one died, they quit—millionaires all—and the sale of Pheasant's Grocery Store was the second largest cash deal in the history of United States business.

PICKLING peaches gave spice to recent country trip.

Americans taught me to like pickled peaches and hot boiled ham. Though two weeks' ration of bacon saved up to make one reasonable rasher must substitute for ham, the combination is still good.

From skinning the peaches to sealing the jars took under one hour, and to anyone who thinks time is lost in organising little variety into rations, I quote Dr JOHNSON: "Some people have a very foolish way of not minding, or pretending not to mind what they eat; for my part, I mind my belly very studiously and very carefully, for I look upon it that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else."

AUSTRALIANS have been worrying a lot about free food parcels to Britain.

They are sent to the Ministry of Food and distributed to those who need them most through various borough councils and welfare societies. Stories have got back that parcels have been sent to the Continent, and Australians have been objecting strongly.

So Mr JOHN TULLY, Agent-General for New South Wales, started a full-dress inquiry. He has been to receiving and distributing centres, and was glad to tell me that he found the organisation 100 per cent efficient.

"If Australia to friends over here have gone astray, that is very difficult to check on," he said, "but the number is certainly small."

This year 430,000 cases of food have been sent free from Australia, 130,000 of them—equivalent to 3,200 tons—from his own State of New South Wales.

Tully was, looks like, a farmer. Soon after he got here last September Australia was considering abandoning rationing.

After a quick look round he wrote urgently to Prime Minister JOSEPH CHIFLEY: "Don't drop rationing whatever you do. Britain needs all the food you can send."

"And I know," said Tully, "my letter was one reason why Australia kept her belts tight."

Thanks, cobber.

Owing to a fishermen's strike, dockers' strike and transport strike, most people will live on sardines.

After an unconfirmed report of Uncle Joe Stalin's funeral, Uncle Joe will announce that he is swimming the Channel in August.

AUGUST will have one fine day. The rest will be wet and cold. On the fine day farmers and food reporters will be in the dog and duck telling each other that it will be the best harvest in history. All the rest of the month they will be in the dog and duck telling each other it will be the worst harvest in history.

There will also be warnings of a hard winter to come, with no coal, no milk, and certainly no eggs. We shall also be told that people in Europe are worse off than us, and Old Moore Gubbins will offer the eggs he hasn't got to starving Albanians.

Following an unconfirmed report that Uncle Joe Stalin is sinking he will offer to fight Bruce Woodcock.

SEPTEMBER will have two fine days. The rest will be wet or misty. As farmers and food reporters will still be in the dog and duck they won't know if it's going to be the best or worst harvest in history.

Following an unconfirmed report of Uncle Joe Stalin's funeral he will offer to fight Joe Louis.

OCTOBER will be wet and miserable from beginning to end. There will be floods and gales and therefore no fish.

About this time the newspapers and the people will be discussing Christmas turkeys and where they will come from. They needn't worry. The black marketeers will have them, anyway.

Following an unconfirmed report that Uncle Joe Stalin has shot himself, he will announce that he has become the father of twins.

NOVEMBER will be completely backed out by fog. It will be announced that turkeys are coming from the Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay, Yugo-Slavia, Greece, Poland, Iceland, and Luxembourg. But nobody outside the black market will get any turkeys.

Following an unconfirmed report that Uncle Joe Stalin has made his last will and testament, he will announce his intention of flying non-stop round the world, piloting his own aircraft.

DECEMBER will be freezing. It will also snow every day but Christmas Day, when it will be fine and hot. There will be no coal, no eggs, no bacon, no turkeys, no whisky, no gin, no wine.

But, following an unconfirmed report that he is breathing his last breath, Uncle Joe Stalin will offer to drink anybody under the table both on his birthday and on Christmas Day.

POCKET CARTOON

According To
Culbertson

(Copyright 1947, by Ely Culbertson)

The contract in to-day's deal was far out of line, but good play, and help from the enemy, supplied the needed tricks.

North, dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 7 4 3	♥ K 10 6	♠ A 7 4 3	♥ K 10 6
♦ A K J 6	♣ 9 5 3	♦ A K J 6	♣ 9 5 3
♠ 4 3	♥ 8 7 5 2	♠ 4 3	♥ 8 7 5 2

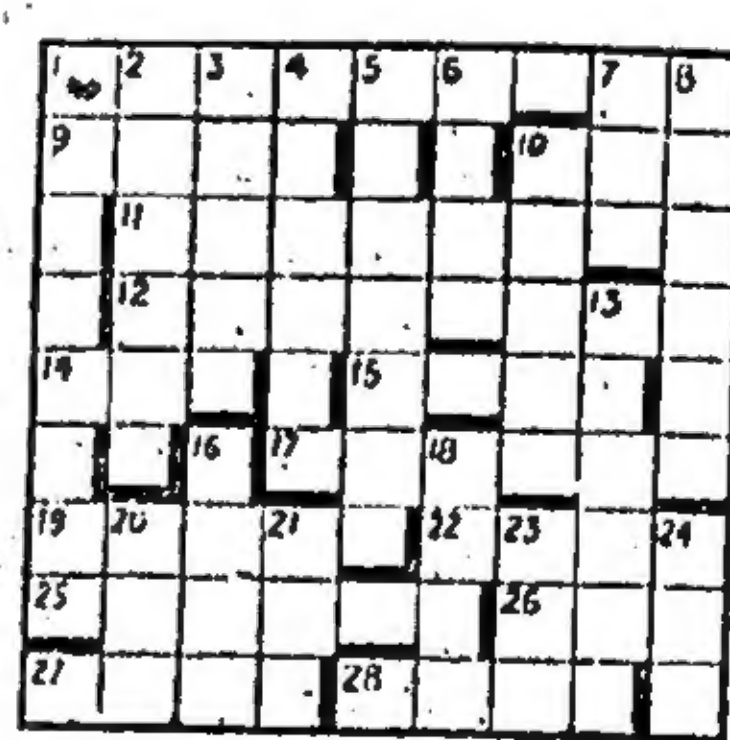
The bidding:
North East
1♠ 1♥ 1♦ 1♣
2♠ 2♥ 2♦ 2♣
3♠ 3♥ 3♦ 3♣
4♠ 4♥ 4♦ 4♣
5♠ 5♥ 5♦ 5♣
6♠ 6♥ 6♦ 6♣
7♠ 7♥ 7♦ 7♣

It is scarcely necessary to say that South's leap from one spade to six no trump was as "neck-stretching" an action as anyone is likely to encounter at the bridge table. South had a good hand opposite an original bid, but a jump to three no trump would have been a great deal more logical, with four no trump (not conventional, since North-South were not using Blackwood) as the upper limit if South felt like "pushing."

West made the safest-appearing opening lead—his top heart. The Jack won and South tried the club finesse. West took his king and led another heart. South won this with the queen, then entered dummy with a heart and led the diamond nine through East. (As will be seen, South could not afford to cash the fourth heart, because he was not prepared to discard from his own hand at this point.)

East could have struck a telling blow for his side by covering the diamond nine with the ten, but he carelessly played low, and South, in desperate need of four diamond tricks, let the nine ride. When it held he took another diamond finesse, cashed the diamond ace, dropping East's king (East had discarded two diamonds on the hearts) and cashed the last diamond. He then led his spade nine to the ace and cashed the fourth heart—and East was squeezed! If he gave up the spade king declarer's queen would be good; whereas on East's actual discard of a club declarer was able to run the rest of his club suit.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

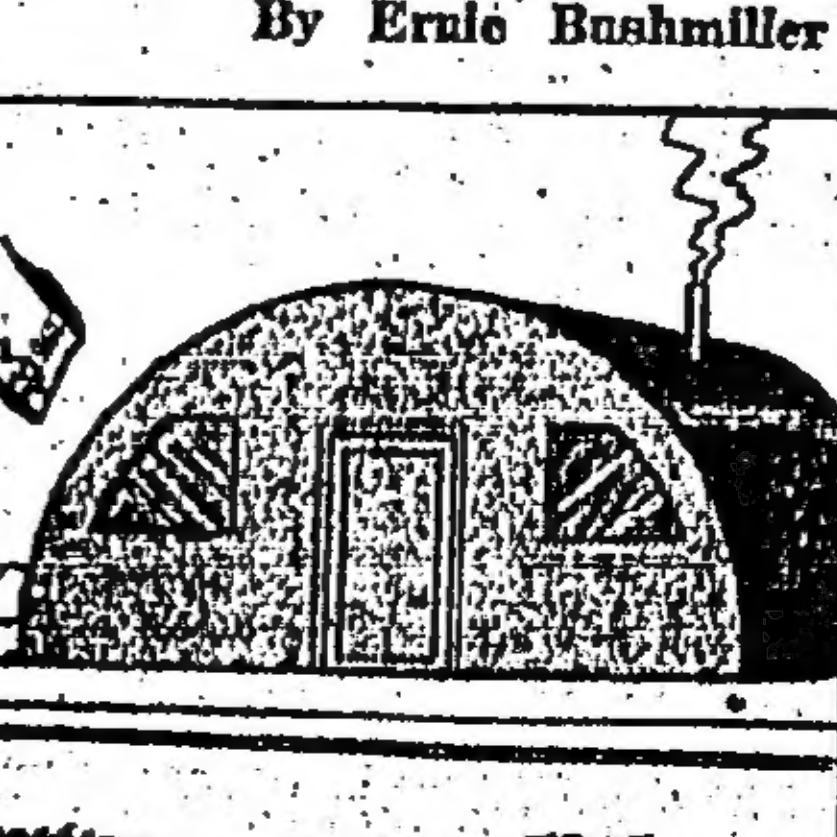


1. Before the motor hut, after the canvas. (8)
2. It's perhaps the artist in the sailor that makes him so picturesque. (14)
3. The speed of emphasis. (8)
4. It takes a while to get to the bottom of it. (10)
5. If they're orange they suggest an attitude. (10)
6. A measure or weight. (8)
7. This is recorded. (10)
8. Obviously they made a bad bet. (6)

9. Its strength lies in its weakness. (10)
10. Each has a pain. (4)
11. France double figures for a speed up. (10)
12. That's the mean power. (14)
13. Admit. (4)
14. Possibly the prize Chad wins. (8)
15. Bitter amuse in these. (6)
16. Sort of bird that should be well fed. (10)
17. You may hear in Norfolk so way so overseas? (10)
18. The least of wagers. (8)
19. Fat seems to be suitable. (10)
20. An essay on the little sister. (10)
21. In New Zealand you take your choice, mother or me. (10)
22. We follow the fable. (10)
23. Covering. (10)
24. This dock is found in the sea. (10)
25. Six is a powerful way. (10)
26. You'd get this before P.T. in an underground cell. (10)
27. Bird. (10)

Solution of yesterday's puzzle—Across: 1. Brought up; 2. Fast; 3. April; 4. Mice; 5. Bitter; 6. Bitter; 7. Bitter; 8. Bitter; 9. Bitter; 10. Bitter; 11. Bitter; 12. Bitter; 13. Bitter; 14. Bitter; 15. Bitter; 16. Bitter; 17. Bitter; 18. Bitter; 19. Bitter; 20. Bitter; 21. Bitter; 22. Bitter; 23. Bitter; 24. Bitter; 25. Bitter; 26. Bitter; 27. Bitter; 28. Bitter; 29. Bitter; 30. Bitter; 31. Bitter; 32. Bitter; 33. Bitter; 34. Bitter; 35. Bitter; 36. Bitter; 37. Bitter; 38. Bitter; 39. Bitter; 40. Bitter; 41. Bitter; 42. Bitter; 43. Bitter; 44. Bitter; 45. Bitter; 46. Bitter; 47. Bitter; 48. Bitter; 49. Bitter; 50. Bitter; 51. Bitter; 52. Bitter; 53. Bitter; 54. Bitter; 55. Bitter; 56. Bitter; 57. Bitter; 58. Bitter; 59. Bitter; 60. Bitter; 61. Bitter; 62. Bitter; 63. Bitter; 64. Bitter; 65. Bitter; 66. Bitter; 67. Bitter; 68. Bitter; 69. Bitter; 70. Bitter; 71. Bitter; 72. Bitter; 73. Bitter; 74. Bitter; 75. Bitter; 76. Bitter; 77. Bitter; 78. Bitter; 79. Bitter; 80. Bitter; 81. Bitter; 82. Bitter; 83. Bitter; 84. Bitter; 85. Bitter; 86. Bitter; 87. Bitter; 88. Bitter; 89. Bitter; 90. Bitter; 91. Bitter; 92. Bitter; 93. Bitter; 94. Bitter; 95. Bitter; 96. Bitter; 97. Bitter; 98. Bitter; 99. Bitter; 100. Bitter.

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Elliott's Nerve
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Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Lois Leeds tells you what to wear for sports events.

NEW HAT!

For the sports events of this season you will dress more than ever before. Beautiful, soft tweeds are here again and a new hat by a famous stylist, called the Sports Classics, is of Steel-Gray wool. It has a high, dimpled crown, banded in Brown wool.

Be smart, wear a hat. Don't go to the games with your bare head, wearing a scarf on your head. That's in bad taste!

And don't forget your protective makeup for wind and whether. A good foundation, well blended on your skin before your face powder, is necessary. And a pomade under your lipstick.

Now for some questions and answers—

"Dear Lois Leeds—My hair flies so badly in crisp, windy weather. What can I do?—MISSY."

Apply a little ointment on your hair. Do it this way. Put the ointment on the palms of your hands first, then stroke your hair from the roots to the ends. You will then have a protective film and a nice glow, too, and your hair will stay put.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I weigh 116 pounds. I am 5 feet, 4½ inches tall.

Minute Makeup
by GABRIELLE



Heat a little cosmetic oil. Apply it to the throat with gentle upward strokes. Leave it on until ready to make up. Blot off the surplus oil. Apply powder with an up-sweep of your puff. Add pearls—and your throat will look as young as you ARE!

Do you think I could wear a sweater nicely?—T. M. C."

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am going to a college town. It is three hours ride from my home. First the game and then a big party and a dinner dance in the country. What should I wear? I am 17 years old and I am tall.—B. G."

A plaid wool suit with a sweater blouse, a felt hat and a top coat. You could slip a blouse in your bag and change the sweater before the party in the evening. If you don't like plaid, then a corduroy suit would be equally smart.

SPRING STRIPES



Looking ahead to the bright weather, here's a dress suitable for practically any age or figure. A dainty model, styled by Virginia, it has a neat shirt-waister and easy gathered pleats in the skirt. It is made in light material; is below ceiling price.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Couldn't you just let me smear enough lipstick on my face so the fellows won't think I spend my evenings at the library?"

Shipping Companies Feel Confident Of Airline Competition

By JACK SMYTH
Reuter's Correspondent

In postwar planning, the shipping companies of the nations operating passenger liners on the North Atlantic route—principally Britain and the United States, Canada and France—do not fear competition from the world's airlines. They consider that most pleasure seekers will continue to prefer to make the sea trip part of their holiday.

Priority in both men and materials has been given to speed up the reconversion of Britain's trans-Atlantic liners. The aim, apparently, is not so much to meet competition either from the air or from the shipping of other companies, but to earn dollars for the national exchequer.

Competition will not become a ruling factor while the demand so far exceeds supply as it is likely to do for several years.

In the big ship class, Britain has a substantial lead.

The 85,000-ton Queen Elizabeth, already in service on the Southampton-New York route, will be joined in March by the 35,000-ton Mauretania, after reconversion from troop carrying.

The 60,000-ton Queen Mary will reappear on the same route in the early summer and later in the year the Coronica, the sister ship of the Mauretania, will be launched.

Against these mammoths the United States has the 27,000-ton America, which will be followed by the 22,000-ton Washington and the 16,000-ton John Ericsson.

In the top class of trans-Atlantic travel France has only the 43,000-ton Ile de France, which will not be ready for service until late in the year, and the ex-German liner Europa, renamed Liberté, which sank in Le Havre harbour on December 9 last year after breaking her moorings in a gale.

Normandie A Dead Loss

The Normandie has become a dead loss following the fire in New York harbour. Among the other prewar liners, the German liner Bremen, which, for a time, held the Blue Riband of the Atlantic for speed, is a bombed out hulk at Hamburg, while the 51,000-ton Italian liner Rex, which also held the Blue Riband, was severely damaged by fire at Trieste in 1945.

Holland's 36,000-ton Nieuwe Amsterdam, at present being reconstructed, but no date has yet been given for her reappearance on the Atlantic route.

Meanwhile, fares all round will continue to be high, but even so passengers will be difficult to come with as there are now thousands on the waiting lists. They are mostly European refugees wishing to go to the United States to visit relatives and relatives of European girls who have married American servicemen.

On the other side of the Atlantic requests for passenger bookings are being swelled by American servicemen anxious to visit Europe and renew friendships formed while they were serving there during the war.

Dutch Gift Of Flowers

One thousand hyacinth bulbs will bloom at the West Point Military Academy, New York, in red, white and blue colours and in the shape of the Netherlands flag.

The bulbs were given to the United States Government by 57 Dutch women to be planted in the shape of their flag as an expression of gratitude and a reminder of the friendship between the two countries. The War Department chose West Point for the site.

The women, who were detained by the Germans at Wolfenbüttel, near the Dutch concentration camp, were liberated on May 1, 1945, by General Alexander Patch's U. S. Seventh Army.—United Press.

Contracts For Britain

Five engineering firms—two are Scots—have scored notable success for British industry by obtaining contracts totalling about £500,000 for plant for the construction of a huge hydro-electric dam in Portugal.

The work has been given to Britain in the face of keen competition from firms in America, France, Belgium and Switzerland.

The firms were selected as being pre-eminent in their own line. Biggest share of the contract goes to Messrs John M. Henderson and Co., Ltd., Aberdeen, who will supply aerial cableways and excavators to the value of £200,000. It is the firm's biggest single order, involving work equivalent to nearly six months' output from the works.

An order for cranes, valued at over £50,000, goes to Batters Ltd., of Glasgow. Aerial ropeways will be provided by British Ropeway Engineering Co., London, and batching plant by Blaw-Knox Ltd.



'SECRET' BOAT TO FIND OUT SEA SECRETS

A 55-foot vessel, the Silver Scout, which was recently launched at Granton, near Leith, is to carry out experiments with the Scottish fishing fleet which will bring big changes to the herring industry.

The Silver Scout, which will be completed in the spring, is the first of two "secret" fishing boats to be used for locating shoals of herring, exploring new fishing grounds, and testing new gear.

Both will also probably fish with the Scottish fleet during the summer.

The Silver Scout has been specially designed for the Herring Industry Board as the result of extensive experiments which were started before the war and have now been resumed.

Two models underwent exhaustive tests at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington to discover designs for an economical diesel-driven drifter which could be built on mass production lines.

The Silver Scout is the first of these two vessels to go into service. She will be followed by a second drifter of slightly different dimensions and lines.

Throughout the summer scientists, shipbuilders, and naval architects will collect data on the performance and the running costs of each vessel. On the outcome of these tests depends the standard design on which Britain's new herring fleet is to be based.

Usefulness Of Stamp-Selling Machines

By means of its coin-operated stamp-selling machines, the Post Office in Britain endeavours to provide a convenient time-saving service continuously throughout the day and night. During the 12 months of 1946, the sale of postage stamps by the 16,000 machines available to the public reached the huge figures of 178,000,000 penny stamps and 151,000,000 half-penny stamps.

This represents 329,000,000 completed transactions of a total monetary value of over £1,000,000. These figures are a testimony to the usefulness and popularity of the stamp-selling machines, the existence of which has doubtless "saved the situation" for many an otherwise stamp-less individual intent on posting a letter after the Post Office counter has been closed.

Rupert and Ninky—15



The Toy Scout does as Rupert has asked, and lands gently near the spot where Edward Trunk had first seen him. "And now what are you going to do?" queries the Scout. "After you've been to your cottage, will you come back with me? Santa Claus is jolly interested in that donkey of yours, and he's keen to find out how it works. Shall I come here to fetch you tomorrow?" "No," says Rupert. "I'll keep my secret in Ninkywood. I'll keep him here at present."

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Johannesburg.—More than 2,000 natives have applied for entrance to Lovedale College, South Africa's only negro university, but only 200 vacancies are available, emphasising the people's agitation about lack of higher educational facilities. Both Finance Minister Hofmeyr and A. L. Barnes, official adviser to Gen. Smuts at UNO, have publicly announced an extension of the franchise for coloured people in the Union is essential.

RIGHT SCENE—WRONG WEAPON: Nice.—Blitz's "Pearl Fishers" was in performance at the Toulon Opera House and baritone Ferdinand Lagarde of Paris was featured. The opera reaches its climax when Zurga, the Mirliton, after delivering the lovers' "Leda" and "Nadir" from evildoers, makes a supreme sacrifice by plunging a dagger into his heart. Someone passed the star a real dagger, and in the course of action he plunged it several inches into his breast. He screamed with anguish and blood spurted from the wound. He was carried off stage to hospital. The audience applauded—thinking the acting most realistic.

NO SCOTCH AND SODA? Long Beach, Cal.—New cinema electric signal notify usherettes when patrons approach, and blowers waft air conditioning through upholstery of the seats.

JAP CLERK BACK Singapore.—Singapore Municipality has reappointed its first Japanese clerk, Johnny Ong. He has joined the Water Department at £8 per month. Ong was interned in India during the war.

ROUGHING IT? Geneva.—The Maharajah of Baroda, richest man in the world, arrived at Geneva recently from India in his personal 30 seater plane. He was accompanied by a suite of 32 persons, and an entire story of the St. Moritz must fashionable hotel, the Palace, was reserved for him. A special balloon coach was attached to the regular train from Geneva to Zurich.

RUSSIAN CO-OPS Moscow.—Twenty co-operative stores, selling foodstuffs, shoes, hardware, and household goods at prices 12 to 20 percent below those in commercial stores, run by the government, have been opened in Moscow. These co-operatives are doing 600,000 roubles worth of business daily, or about £12,000 at exchange rates.

NEW RAT TRAP Johannesburg.—A local shop-keeper had trouble with rats in his store. Half a dozen cats did no good. He bought a baby python for £1 and let it out each night. No more rats.

DIONNE QUINTUPLETS Corbell, Ont.—The Dionne Quintuplets, now 12 years old, received a New Year's apostolic blessing from Pope Pius. The message from Rome thanked the Quints for their "touching act of self-denial" last May when they sent all their birthday gifts to the Pope for distribution among starving children of Europe.

MASTERS OF SECRETS Capetown.—After sending a driver charged with drunkenness to prison for two months, Magistrate Mr. H. B. Erlank told him that he regretted his inability to do as in Moscow and have him shot. The driver drove on the wrong side of a road, collided with, and overturned, another car, then drove off without stopping.

"BABBY CHURCHMANSHIP" Singapore.—David Rosenthal, Archdeacon of Singapore, formerly of Hongkong, in commenting on Singapore's 10,000 church-going population, bitterly criticized delinquents who are responsible for "babby churchmanship." He cited examples of couples marrying in church but who were insincere and irregular in attendance. He said: "They came to church to get married because they like picturesque robes, organ music, bells and Gothic arches which they cannot get at the Register Office."

DISMEMBERED Warsaw.—Polish police found the head and arms of a middle-aged man stuffed in a suitcase at Poznan and a body and legs crammed in a similar bag at Danzig, several hundred miles away. There is no clue yet to the murderer or the motive. The man apparently had been shot at close range before his assassin dismembered him.

EGG TARGET Warsaw.—Poland plans to export 100,000,000 eggs in 1947 of which a large share will go to Britain. For the first time since the war, the country also plans to export sweets to Britain this year as well as bacon, furniture and 2,000 tons of potato starch.

WALL TREASURE Paris.—In a modest room where a poor old woman had lived for years, a builder repairing the house near Dijon found a treasure trove in a wall consisting of gold and silver coins of the Louis XV period. The gold coins worth three pounds and the silver coins eight pounds. Apart from their historic value, the gold coins are worth over £1,000.

PENTHOUSE COACH St. Louis.—The first penthouse passenger coach has gone into service on a mid-west railway. Something like the blitzer on a bomber, the dome on the coach's roof seats 24 passengers. At night, with only dim floor lights on, they get an eerie feeling of floating through space.

FILMS AT SCOUT JAMBOREE

For the first time films are to take their part among the entertainments at a World Scout Jamboree. At the Jamboree to be held in France next August—the first World Jamboree for 10 years—there will be five cinemas showing documentary and educational films and films on scouting. Each cinema holds 500 people.

The British Commonwealth contingent to the Jamboree will be led by the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan.

QUEEN'S

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

Samuel Goldwyn presents
A Wonderful Merry-Go-Round
of Girls, Laughs and Love!
Danny Kaye
"THE KID FROM BROOKLYN"
in Technicolor

VIRGINIA MAYO
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Released thru
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CENTRAL THEATRE

5 SHOWS DAILY
At 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

it's a bet!
CARY GRANT
Produced by David Hempstead
Directed by H. C. Potter
Screen Play by Milton Himmelfarb & Adrian Scott
CHARLES CLIFT, CLAUDE COOPER, ALAN CARR, HENRY STEPHENSON

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DENNIS MORGAN
JOAN LESLIE
A WALKER PICTURE
The Hard Way
A GREAT STORY
JACK CARSON GLADYS GEORGE FAYE EMMERSON
Directed by VINCENT SHEPHERD Screen Play by Daniel Fuchs and Peter Viertel

ALHAMBRA

TO-DAY ONLY
2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

THE STAMPEDE KILLER!
OUTCAST BOY
OUTLAW HORSE
UNIVERSAL
WILD BEAUTY
DON PORTER LOIS COLLIER JACQUELINE ROBERT
GEORGE CLEVELAND and Wild Beauty

TO-MORROW
SCREEN'S NEWEST
INNER
SANCTUM
MYSTERY
FROZEN GHOST
EVELYN ANKERS ELENA VERDUGO
MARTIN KOSLECK DOUGLASS QUAMRILL MILBURN STONE

THE PARKERS

by HODGES



Mountbatten In Car Accident

London, Feb. 25. Lord Louis Mountbatten was shaken up but uninjured to-day when his car skidded and was slightly damaged near Basingstoke, Hampshire, while he was coming to London.—United Press.

ANGLO-SOVIET PACT BEING PREPARED

Paris, Feb. 25. Negotiations between France and Britain for the conclusion of an alliance are momentarily marking time, M. Pierre Bourdieu, French Minister of Information, told newspapermen to-day.

Answering questions after this morning's Council of Ministers, M. Bourdieu said the slowdown was because Britain was discussing the outline of a British-Soviet pact with Moscow and wished to get that outline straightened out before proceeding further with the French so that the two pacts "would be in harmony" with each other.

M. Bourdieu said it was desirable the two pacts should be conceived "on the same form".—United Press.

Bidauld's Statement

Paris, Feb. 25. The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, told the French Cabinet to-day that satisfactory progress was being made in "completing" the provisions of the Anglo-Soviet and Franco-Soviet pacts in relation to the proposed Franco-British agreement.—Reuter.

Italians After "Luciano"

Rome, Feb. 25. Italian police headquarters in Rome said to-day that Charles "Lucy" Luciano will be arrested as soon as he arrives in Italy from Cuba for "clandestine departure without the proper credentials".

A Foreign Office spokesman said it had no information on how Luciano obtained an Italian passport in the name of Salvatore Luciano, and said the Italian-born former American vice king "did not apply for a passport".

When Luciano first arrived in Italy after his deportation from the United States, but was never able to establish his whereabouts after he went to Sicily. At one time he was reported to have died in Sicily.—United Press.



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Screen Play by Norman Panama & Melvin Frank and James V. Kern
From an Original Story by Everett Freeman and Arthur Schwartz

NEXT CHANGE AT THE

LEE THEATRE

Royal Family Enjoying S. African Train Trip

Aboard the Royal Train, Feb. 25. An ostrich egg which the King promised he would try in an omelette, and a rich crop of ostrich plumes which the Queen clipped herself, were among the souvenirs the Royal Family gathered in South Africa yesterday.

The Princesses laughed most when a cluster of birds thrust their heads into the open moustache bag, full of photographic equipment belonging to Eddie Worth, Associated Press cameraman. He was too busy to know what was going on behind him.

"You won't have any film left," the Princesses called out to him.

Travelling from George earlier in the day, the King had requested that the train should stop occasionally.

At one point Henry Dreyer, an old Boer, rode up on horseback, waving a belt which he said he had brought from Central Africa. He had fought the British in the Boer War. He wanted the King to know that he was now his friend. He flung the belt into the train, as a present for the King.

A large floral gift presented to the Queen at another stop was found to contain a piece of pottery.

"You have been robbing the bathroom," laughed the King, "Don't forget to put it back."

The Royal party was in excellent humour throughout the day. "Don't mind me, just through and take your pictures," the King told Eddie Worth who had stepped aside to make way for him at one point.

"Please get the children's faces," he told Worth.

RED CARPET

An essential part of the equipment on this train is the 500 yards, or well over a ton, of red carpet which is used in varying lengths at all stops.

It is rolled up on a huge spool and dry shampooed at least once every day. One group of policemen travelling on the train is assigned exclusively to keep people from treading on the carpet, which is usually laid out from the train gangway to the Royal car.

The train itself is scrubbed and polished by what seems continuous relays of cleaners, and one large crew, the personnel of which changes as the journey lengthens, works on the outside of the train alone.

The train personnel are an extraordinary study in hurried occupations, but one who job seems most free from complaints is a full-time woman florist.

PRAYERS FOR RAIN

Her work is simplified by many gifts from communities at places where the train stops. They offer the riches of their gardens including proteas, the South African's pride and joy.

It was disclosed on Monday that at Oudshoorn, the congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church were called to pray for rain in the drought-stricken areas, and at the same time they offered special spontaneous prayers for the King and

Many Injured When Ball Stand Topples

La Fayette, Indianapolis, Feb. 25.

Purdue University's field house was sealed to-day, awaiting investigation into the sudden collapse of the bleacher stands which killed two male students and injured 250 other basketball fans last night.

About 140 of the injured were still hospitalized to-day.

A mysterious collapse of the all-wooden stands hurled 35,000 screaming fans, mostly students, to the dirt floor and broke up the big-time game between Purdue and Wisconsin. The 30-foot high stands, running the length of the basketball floor, on the east side of the court, collapsed in the middle and spilled spectators to the ground as though dropped into a funnel. Planks from upper tiers toppled last, piling down on top of the sprawled injured mass of people.

Many of the injured suffered broken arms and legs or back injuries.

Purdue's president said that stands were not loaded beyond the rated capacity.—United Press.

Nazis Ready To Take Over If Allies Leave Germany

London, Feb. 25.

If the Allies left Germany right now a Nazi group certainly would try to seize power, Gen Bohuslav Ecer, head of the Czech delegation of the War Crimes Tribunal, warned to-day.

His statement, made in an interview while here on a lecture tour, came as Moscow Radio continued a series of blasts charging that denazification was a joke in the western zones of Germany.

Gen Ecer said a "criminal elite" was still loose in Germany and that some neighbouring states are planning joint proposals for their prosecution to be submitted to the Allies.

Gen Ecer estimated that of 600,000 Nazi Party members classed as local leaders and 50,000 Gestapo men, most were still at large and that only 130,000 of the 800,000 SS members were in custody. He said only long-term occupation was the answer.

Moscow Radio, continuing its attacks on the western zones' clearing of Nazis, quoted a Red Star article to-day as saying "Denazification in the western zones of Germany is a farce."

It also attacked the merging of the British and American zones and said: "There is a direct link between the negotiations for the merger of the two zones and consolidation of the German reactionary forces."

It cited as evidence the alleged meetings of bi-zonal German industrial leaders coinciding with the merger move.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the time stated below.

Airmail:
Bangkok, Calcutta, Delhi, Johannesburg and Cairo, 1.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Peking, 2.30 p.m.
Steamers:
Shanghai, 3 p.m.
U.S.A. Central and South America via San Francisco, 3 p.m.
Canada (via Vancouver B.C.), 3 p.m.
Kobe, Yokohama, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.
Thursday, February 27

Airmail:
Canton, Chungking, Ahoey, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, 3.30 p.m.
Singapore, Colombo, Sydney, Auckland, London, 3.30 p.m.
Steamers:
Straits, Egypt, Europe (via London), 3 p.m.
Australia (via Sydney), 3 p.m.
U.S.A. Central and South America, Canada (via San Francisco), 3 p.m.
Tientsin, 3 p.m.
Shanghai, 3 p.m.
Hongkong, 4 p.m.
Kobe, Yokohama, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.
Friday, February 28

Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

THE BIRDS OF HONGKONG

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NOW ON SALE \$7.50

South China Morning Post and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

U.S. Trusteeship Of Is. Approved By Russia

GENERAL MARSHALL'S STATEMENT

Washington, Feb. 25.

The Secretary of State, General George Marshall, declared to-day that the Soviet Government had approved the transfer to United States trusteeship the former mandated islands of Japan.

General Marshall read to his press conference what he described as a paraphrase of the entire contents of a message he had received from the Soviet Government yesterday. He said that the Soviet Government felt it fair to transfer to trusteeship of the United States the former mandated islands of Japan.

The Soviet Government takes into account that the United States armed forces played the decisive role in the war against Japan and bore incomparably greater sacrifices than the forces of other nations. General Marshall said that he had not yet received a reply from the British Government on this subject. He declined to give the text of the Soviet note, and said that it was for the Soviet Government to publish it.

DULLES FOR MOSCOW

The Secretary of State stated that there was no change in the general policies towards a German settlement enunciated by Mr. James Byrnes in his Stuttgart speech and commitments entered into at the Potsdam Conference.

At the same time, General Marshall announced that he had asked Mr. John Dulles—Republican expert on foreign affairs and recent critic of Russian "expansionism"—to join the United States delegation to the Moscow Council of Foreign Ministers.

General Marshall is leaving for Moscow about March 5. He said that he had not received any communication from the Soviet Government regarding a settlement of the Russian Lend-Lease account. He described as closed the "Acheson Incident" in the course of which the Soviet Government recently protested against the Under-Secretary's description of Soviet foreign policy as "aggressive and expanding", and that no reply would be sent to the note from Mr. V. Molotov delivered to the State Department last week.

KOREAN PROBLEM

General Marshall declined to comment on yesterday's statement by Lieutenant-General John Hodge, United States Commander in Korea, regarding Russia's conscripting Koreans into the army. He said, however, that he had a group within the State Department working on every aspect of the Korean problem. He did not anticipate raising the Korean question with the Soviet Government when he was in Moscow.

Later in the day, Mr. Dulles announced his acceptance of the invitation to accompany General Marshall to the Moscow conference. Mr. Dulles said that the "Moscow negotiations will largely determine the kind of peace for which so many suffered and died".—Reuter.

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